

WHEREAS; on August 6, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson was joined by civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, to sign the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law; and

WHEREAS; while the 15th Amendment made it unconstitutional for any man to be denied the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude, widespread voter disenfranchisement efforts on the part of state and local governments against people of color and other historically oppressed communities—and against Black Americans, in particular—persisted; and

WHEREAS; among the law’s numerous landmark provisions is the prohibition of literacy tests at the polls, which had served as a major tool of voter suppression, as well as the institution of federal oversight and enforcement mechanisms aimed at states with a history of discriminatory election processes; and

WHEREAS; the immediate effects of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 included a significant rise in voter turnout across the United States; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, we are reminded both of the importance of holding free and fair elections that allow for and encourage the full civic participation of every citizen and of how far we have yet to go to achieve this goal for all eligible voters across the state and country; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin affirms its commitment to eliminating barriers to voting, especially for those historically disenfranchised, and to supporting efforts to make voting as easy and as accessible as possible to every eligible voter;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim August 6 2023 as

58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 28th day of July 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State